

## Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 PC-04 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 DRC-01 /150 W  
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R 211936Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5279

INFO USCINCSO

CONFIDENTIAL MONTEVIDEO 2859

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, UY

SUBJECT: ANOTHER DELAY IN NAMING COUNCIL OF STATE

CINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: MONTEVIDEO 1980

1. PRESIDENT BORDABERRY'S DIFFICULTIES IN FORMING A COUNCIL OF STATE, DESIGNED TO REPLACE THE CLOSED CONGRESS, ARE CONTINUING. WIDESPREAD RUMORS SETTING DATES FOR ITS ESTABLISHMENT, SUCH AS THE AUGUST 25 INDEPENDENCE DAY, HAVE COME AND GONE AS HAVE RUMORS CONCERNING CANDIDATES FOR ITS PRESIDENCY.

2. RUMORS AND PRESS CONJECTURE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 19 POINTED TO THE SEPTEMBER 23 ARTIGAS COMMEMORATION AS THE LATEST TARGET DATE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNCIL. MONTEVIDEO MAYOR OSCAR RACHETTI WAS LABELLED BY MANY AS THE COUNCIL'S PRESIDENT-TO-BE. PRESIDENT BORDABERRY, HOWEVER, ON SEPTEMBER 20 IN A BRIEF STATEMENT TO THE PRESS SAID THE COUNCIL WOULD NOT BE NAMED UNTIL AFTER THE SCHEDULED EARLY OCTOBER MEETING OF NATIONAL LEADERS. BORDABERRY EXPLAINED THAT OFFICIALS NAMED FOLLOWING HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS WOULD COME INTO THE GOVERNMENT WITH A BETTER FEELING AS TO WHERE IT IS HEADED AND WOULD PROVIDE FOR GREATER COHERENCE AMONG THE VARIOUS BRANCHES OF

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GOVERNMENT.

3. AN EMBOFF DISCUSSED THE COUNCIL WITH RACHETTI AT LENGTH ON SEPTEMBER 19. THE MAYOR SAID HE DEFINITELY WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL. FIRST, HE CONSIDERS HIS THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT ELECTIVE POST IN THE NATION AND HE HAS SEVERAL YEARS LEFT TO SERVE. SECOND, THE EXECUTIVE WITH MILITARY BACKING CLOSED THE CONGRESS WHEN IT DID NOT RESPOND AS THE EXECUTIVE WISHED AND THE SAME FATE COULD WELL AWAIT THE COUNCIL. RACHETTI ADDED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD A NUMBER OF PEOPLE UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR THE COUNCIL BUT THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ACCEPTANCES.

4. THUS, ANOTHER DEADLINE HAS COME AND GONE AND THE NAME OF RACHETTI IS ADDED TO THOSE OF VICE PRESIDENT SAPELLI, BLANCO PARTY PATRIARCH MARTIN ECHEGOYAN, ALBERTO HEBER, JORGE ECHEVARRIA AND OTHER PROMINENT URUGUAYANS BY WHOM THE PRESIDENT APPARENTLY HAS BEEN REJECTED. THEIR REJECTIONS STEM PRIMARILY FROM A DESIRE NOT TO BE CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION AND FROM A BELIEF THAT THE COUNCIL WILL BE SHORTLIVED. THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF HAS NOW SET A DEADLINE FOR THE COUNCIL'S CREATION. IF, AS APPEARS LIKELY, THE PRESIDENT CANNOT FIND MEN OF SUFFICIENT STATURE TO ACCEPT APPOINTMENT, HE MAY BE FORCED AT LAST TO NAME A COUNCIL REGARDLESS OF THE STATURE OF ITS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS.

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